

## CHAPTER 16

### ELECTRICAL CODE

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#### **16.01 STATE CODE ADOPTED.**

- (1) Department of Commerce Ch. 24 is hereby adopted by reference and made a part of this chapter and shall apply to the construction and inspection of new 1- and 2-family dwellings and additions or modifications to existing 1- and 2- family dwellings.
- (2) Subject to the exceptions set forth in this chapter, Comm. 16, Volume 1, and Rules of Electrical Code, Vol. 2, of the Wisconsin Administrative Code are hereby adopted by reference and made a part of this chapter and shall apply to all buildings, except those covered in sub. (1) above.
- (3) Any further amendments, revisions and modifications of said code and rules incorporated therein are in-tended to be made a part of this chapter.

**16.02 DEFINITIONS.** In the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) **ELECTRICAL SYSTEM.** All wires, equipment or devices installed for the purpose of conducting or safeguarding electrical current at all voltages.
- (2) **ELECTRICAL WORK.** Any act in connection with the installing, altering or maintaining of electrical systems, which act ordinarily requires the use of tools.
- (3) **WIRING.** All conductors and all other devices incidental to the safe conduction of electrical current.

#### **16.03 ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR.**

- (1) **APPOINTMENT.** See §1.03(9) of this Code.
- (2) **QUALIFICATIONS.** The Electrical Inspector shall be versed in approved methods of electrical construction for the safety of life and property, the State Statutes relating to electrical work, the rules and regulations of the State Department of Commerce and the National Electric Safety Code of the United States Bureau of Standards and shall be certified by the State of Wisconsin.
- (3) **DUTIES.**
  - (a) **Records and Reports.** The Electrical Inspector shall keep a complete record of all applications made and permits issued, regularly numbered in the order of their issuance. He shall also keep a record of all inspections made and other official work performed under the provisions of this chapter, so arranged as to afford prompt information concerning electrical installations and shall make reports thereon to the Council as it may require.
  - (b) **Inspections; Notices.** The Electrical Inspector shall inspect all buildings and premises and make a thorough examination of all the electrical wiring, equipment and devices installed and when such are found to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition, he shall notify the person owning, using, operating or installing the same to place

them in a safe condition. Such necessary repairs or changes shall be completed according to the provisions of this chapter. The Electrical Inspector may order the discontinuance of electrical service to such defective electrical system until it has been repaired, removed or altered as directed by the Inspector. Failure to obey any such order shall subject such person to the penalties herein provided.

- (3) **AUTHORITY TO TURN OFF CURRENT.** The Electrical Inspector may cause the immediate turning off of all electrical current to any equipment which he finds, in the exercise of his sound judgment, creates imminent danger to persons or property and to cut or discontinue electrical service in emergencies where he finds, in the exercise of his sound judgment, such electrical current creates imminent danger to persons or property or where such currents may interfere with the work of the Fire Department. No person shall reconnect any equipment thus cut off without the written permission of the Electrical Inspector.
- (4) **RIGHT OF ENTRY.** The Electrical Inspector may enter any building or premises in the discharge of his official duties and for that purpose shall be given prompt access upon notification to the proper authority. He may discontinue electrical service to premises to which he is denied access or entry.

**16.04 ELECTRICIAN LICENSING.** (1462  
01/27/87, 1828 08/22/95, 2417 08/12/14)

- (1) **ADOPTION OF STATE CODES.** Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, the provisions of §101.80 to 101.88, Wis. Stats. and Comm. Ch. 16 and 17 of the Wis. Adm. Code regulating the installation and use of electricity and establishing rules for electrical inspections and for certification of electricians and electrical contractors are adopted by reference and made a part of this section as if fully set forth herein. A violation of any such provision shall constitute a violation of this section. Any act required to be performed or prohibited by any statute or Adm. Code incorporated herein by reference is required or prohibited by this section. Any future amendments, revisions, renumbering or modifications of the statutes or codes

incorporated herein are intended to be a part of this section in order to secure uniform statewide regulation of electrical requirements in the State of Wisconsin.

**16.05 ELECTRICAL PERMITS.**

- (1) **PERMITS REQUIRED; APPLICATION.** The Electrical Inspector shall issue permits for the execution of electrical installation for light, heat or power upon the filing of a proper application, which shall be made on blanks furnished by the Electrical Inspector and shall prescribe the nature of the work contemplated and such other pertinent information as may be required for inspection. No work shall be done until a permit has been obtained.
- (2) **ISSUANCE; TERM.** When the Electrical Inspector is satisfied that the work proposed by the applicant can be done in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, and after the appropriate fees have been paid to him, he shall issue the permit. Such permit shall be good for the continuous performance of the work named thereon. A permit shall automatically expire if work has not been commenced within 90 days of the date of issuance or when work ceases for a period of 90 days without good and reasonable cause for same and shall automatically expire on completion of the work for which it was issued; provided the Electrical Inspector may, upon notice, suspend or revoke such permit for violation of the provisions of this chapter.
- (3) **FEES.** See the City's Official Fee Schedule. All permit fees shall be doubled if electrical work commences before the required permits are obtained and the proper fees paid. The fees shall be doubled for each violation.
- (4) **PERMITS FOR TEMPORARY WORK.** On applying for a permit for temporary work, the period of time for which such wiring is to remain in service shall be specified. Service shall be cut off at the end of this period and shall not again be connected without written permission from the Electrical Inspector.
- (5) **INSPECTION OF WORK.** The permittee or an authorized representative shall, in writing or orally, request inspections by the Electrical Inspector at appropriate times required for the enforcement of this code. The Electrical Inspector shall perform the requested inspection within 48 hours after notification,

except the final inspection. Construction may not proceed beyond the point of inspection until the inspection has been completed, except if inspection has not taken place within 48 hours of notification, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, unless otherwise agreed upon between the permittee and the Electrical Inspector. No building where electrical service has been cut off due to fire shall be reconnected until authorized by the Electrical Inspector. If the Electrical Inspector shall determine that the work has not been done in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the contractor shall correct the same within 10 days after receiving notice thereof. If the defective work has not been corrected within 10 days, the Electrical Inspector shall cancel the permit until the provisions of this chapter have been complied with.

- (6) **ISSUANCE OF SUBSEQUENT PERMITS.** No permit shall be issued if there are any outstanding corrections to be made. No permit shall be issued if previous permits are not complete as to work done and the fees paid on any work that has been reported as complete.

**16.06 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR TEMPORARY INSTALLATION.** The Electrical Inspector may grant special permission, for a limited time, for the installation or use of temporary electric wiring and equipment that does not conform with the regulations of this chapter. The person installing such wiring or equipment shall be directly and legally responsible and accountable for the safe condition of the installation at all times and its complete removal at the end of the fixed temporary period, as set by the Electrical Inspector, or any time sooner when ordered by the Inspector. Carnivals, circuses, theatrical acts and exhibitions and all places of temporary outdoor assembly are included in the provisions of this section and all electrical wiring and equipment associated therewith shall be installed, maintained and operated in a safe and workmanlike manner. All such electric wiring and equipment shall be isolated from the public by proper elevation and guarding of all electrical fuses, and switches shall be installed in approved enclosures. Cable laid on the ground in areas traversed by the public shall be buried in trenches or protected by approved covers. No wooden raceways shall be used. All temporary services shall be rainproof in their entirety. Where an enclosure is built around non-waterproof equipment, it shall have a hinged cover and be supplied with a hasp and lock.

**16.07 NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE; APPEAL.** Whenever the Electrical Inspector determines that all or part of the electrical work of any building does not comply with the provisions of this chapter, he shall, in cases where the construction is in progress, give 5 days' written notice thereof to the contractor on the job. In all other cases he shall give 5 days' notice thereof to the owner or his authorized agent or attorney. Such contractor or owner may have such determination reviewed by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

**16.08 DISCLAIMER ON INSPECTIONS.** The purpose of the inspections under this code is to improve the quality of housing in the City. The inspections and the reports and findings issued after the inspections are not intended as, nor are they to be construed, as a guarantee. In order to so advise owners and other interested persons, a disclaimer shall be included in each inspection report as follows: "The findings of inspection contained therein are intended to report conditions of noncompliance with code standards that are readily apparent at the time of inspection. The inspection does not involve a detailed examination of the mechanical systems or the closed structural and non-structural elements of the building and premises. No warranty of the operation, use or durability of equipment and materials not specifically cited herein is expressed or implied.

**16.09 PENALTY.** Any person who shall violate any provision of this chapter or any regulation, rule or order made hereunder shall be subject to a penalty as provided in §25.04 of this Code.